



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/360/Corr.3
7 November 1980

CHINESE, ENGLISH, FRENCH,
RUSSIAN AND SPANISH ONLY

Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Annex, page 4, paragraph 6, last line

For appendix I read appendix IX

2. Annex, page 4, paragraph 8

Delete the final sentence

3. Annex, paragraphs 18, 23, 24, 26, 27, 70, 71, 112, 121, 140, 160, 165, 172, 174, 179, 182, 187, 188 and 196

For the existing text substitute

"18. Ethiopia is the country with the lowest official development assistance figure per capita. This fact, as well as the effects of events in the horn of Africa generally have made it difficult if not impossible for the country to devote its efforts and financial resources to productive internal development. A real concentration of material and human resources would have been essential to give momentum to a much needed rural transformation process. The programme of relocation and concentration of rural people in viable settlements appears to be the only long-term constructive solution to prevent famine. Increased external assistance is needed to support the Government's reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts for displaced people in the south and south-east of the country. A recent paper (TD/B/AC.17/15 of 16 January 1980) summarizing the salient points of a report of the Central Planning Supreme Council of Ethiopia, dealt with the problem of absorbing additional international assistance in the following terms:

'It has been argued that there is a limit to the amount of external resources that can be productively absorbed by a developing country like Ethiopia. But it should also be remembered that absorptive capacity is itself a function of the composition of the external resources received, since the limit to absorptive capacity is set mainly by shortages of complementary inputs which themselves can be made the subject of aid. In the case of Ethiopia, absorptive capacity is likely to be constrained by shortages of skilled manpower and of key material inputs like cement and power. The existence of such bottlenecks, however, calls for more rather than less aid, in order to push the absorptive limit upward and make accelerated growth possible'."

...

"23. In the three regions, people are to be found who have been compelled to leave their homes, and in some places there are now permanent settlements for people who are moving voluntarily from drought-stricken and/or badly eroded and unproductive areas in the region of Wollo.

"24. In April 1980, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of the Government of Ethiopia estimated the numbers of affected people in the three regions as being 1,858,000, but in its more recent assessment now puts the figure at between 2,100,000 and 2,400,000. This compares with an estimated total population of 6,759,000, of whom 524,000 are classified as urban dwellers: on this basis therefore some 38 per cent of the rural population has been affected over-all. When it is remembered that the land surface area of the region is as much as 500,000 square kilometres, it will be realized how the low population density is of itself an additional difficulty in organizing relief and rehabilitation work. Some concentration of the population into temporary or quasi-permanent camp/settlements is essential if any real effect is to be felt from the work of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission."

...

"26. The displaced people in the camps come from one of the poorest regions in the world, subject, in recent years, to conflict and repeated droughts and deficient in almost all social services. As a result they suffer from malnutrition and disease. In addition, many of them have travelled long distances with inadequate food and water. Many, particularly the children, arrive at the camps with virtually no belongings, not even clothing. Many cases of extreme malnutrition and children suffering from eye and skin diseases were noted. The general situation has been made worse by events in the region; some people may have been refugees at an earlier stage and then returned to Ethiopia.

/...

"27. The Government of Ethiopia explained in detail the amount of physical destruction experienced during the conflict in Sidamo, Bale and Hararghe and the need for assistance for a reconstruction programme. This aspect of the problem was not specifically mentioned in the mission's terms of reference, although it might be considered that, if the displaced persons are to return to their homes (or at least be permanently resettled in more promising locations), then 'a comprehensive programme of assistance for them' might well include elements for the provision of social and economic infrastructure. These elements might be replacements for those previously existing, or they might be completely new."

...

"70. For the elderly who have lost their supporting families, the Government proposes to erect 16 nursing homes to accommodate 1,800 people at an initial per capita cost of \$12,345, or a total capital investment of \$22,221,000.

"71. The Mission saw many cases of physical disablement in the affected areas. It was explained by the Government that these were the result of the conflict. The schemes for civilian disabled inevitably incur heavy capital costs. Accommodation for 1,000 disabled, for example, is estimated at \$13,458,000 for a single centre."

...

"112. A combination of circumstances has caused widespread loss of public services along with displacement of rural peoples and destruction of homes, crops, food reserves, seed, livestock and grazing resources in the three regions of Bale, Hararghe and Sidamo. Various agricultural projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, such as the livestock II project, the rangeland development project and the minimum package project, have been severely disrupted. The Government informed the Mission that over 80 per cent of the central and field veterinary establishments in the region are no longer functioning and veterinary staff had been killed or were missing. Moreover on-farm veterinary facilities have been seriously affected by recent events."

...

"121. The situation of health services in the country, already poor, is in the affected regions, much worse because of events since 1977, and this is particularly reflected in the state of health of the displaced population, especially those in shelters."

...

"140. Health manpower is critically short (e.g. less than 600 doctors, about 50 per cent of whom are expatriate) throughout the country. In the three affected regions where, the Government reported, qualified people were injured, have perished, or are missing, the situation is much worse."

...

"160. The Government presented a proposal by the Ethiopian Electric Light and Power Authority (EELPA) for assistance to repair and replace generating capacity. The work involves making available provisional installations in the towns of Jijiga, Gode and Kebri Dehar, and later the replacement of the complete system in the same places. Costs are estimated at \$US 193,230 and \$US 692,360 respectively for these two phases."

...

"165. Efforts are in train to democratize education by expanding educational opportunities, redressing imbalances, making educational content relevant to Ethiopia's situation, promoting national literacy and increasing the output of trained manpower. The role of education during the national revolutionary development campaign is to create the system necessary to achieve the targets of development planning to mobilize and co-ordinate, through popular organizations, the participation of all literate members of the society at regional, subregional, district and community levels to combat illiteracy. The problems of education generally are evident in a more acute form in the territories which were under consideration by the mission. According to official figures, 438 schools in these regions were destroyed. The number of school-age children affected is estimated at 150,000 and the probable cost for the repair and rehabilitation of school facilities is about \$US 17.75 million."

...

"172. In the long term it is recommended that a new system embodying the latest achievements in educational planning, school construction and institutional methods be introduced. Where new establishments are needed or replacements are built, there is an opportunity for innovative educational activity aimed at a closer connexion between school and work and a better relationship between formal and informal education."

...

"174. The efforts made by the Government to maintain and expand its literacy and educational programmes in the face of great difficulties were impressive and justify further support from the international community. There has been no attempt to verify the estimates made in government documents, but it was often found that the situations were worse than had been reported."

...

"179. Ethiopia's major proportion of imports and exports are handled at three ports: Assab and Massawa in the country and Djibouti. The capacity of the ports is low due to a number of limiting factors: berth facilities are limited as a result of infrequent dredging; wharves and buildings are old and badly maintained; covered storage and stocking

/...

space is inadequate; and efficient cargo handling is inhibited by the lack of proper handling equipment. All these factors contribute to a high berth occupation, congestion in the harbours and increased costs."

...

"182. The Government is seeking assistance for three categories of road-network improvement: the first involves rehabilitation and reconstruction of road facilities which, the mission was informed, had been destroyed or damaged in 1977; the second includes rural road projects designed to support relief and rehabilitation efforts; and the third category deals with the replacement of vehicles which are important for relief and reconstruction schemes."

...

"187. A great number of trucks and buses used in commercial activities need to be replaced. The Road Transport Authority has so far identified the following number of vehicles, which had been lost, to be replaced: (the rest is unchanged).

"188. Ethiopia's major port used to be Djibouti, handling about one third of all imports and exports. However, the operations of the railway line were frequently interrupted during the last three years. The Franco-Ethiopian railway company provided a preliminary estimate of the necessary repairs to the damaged property, as follows: (the rest is unchanged)."

...

"196. The problem in parts of Ethiopia (as indeed elsewhere in the Horn of Africa) has been made more difficult because of the presence of displaced people in areas affected by drought. The assistance provided to those people by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, under the terms of his general mandate and the specific authority of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/39 and 1980/8, must of necessity be combined with that given by other donors, within or outside the United Nations system, part of which is expected to be co-ordinated by UNDRO."

4. Add the following text as appendix IX:

APPENDIX IX

Composition of the mission

Mr. Faruk N. Berkol, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

Mr. G. Fischer, Economic Affairs Officer, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, New York

Mr. E. H. Zawada, Senior Industrial Officer, Economic Commission for Africa/ United Nations Industrial Development Organization Industry Division, Addis Ababa

Mr. P. O. Lennartsson, Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Children's Fund, Addis Ababa

Mr. F. von Mallinckrodt, Programme Analyst, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme, New York

Mr. H. Olson, Programme Officer, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, New York

Mr. J. B. Musoke, Regional Demographer, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, Nairobi

Mr. E. Syts, Field Inspection and Training Officer, World Food Programme, Rome

Mr. K. Assomani, Acting Regional Liaison Representative for Africa, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Addis Ababa

Mr. V. Sethi, Regional Adviser on Co-operatives, International Labour Organisation, Addis Ababa

Mr. O. Cerych, Officer-in-Charge, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Addis Ababa

Mr. A. Idris, Liaison Officer for Ethiopia and with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Addis Ababa

Mr. M. Cipro, Senior Project Officer, Research and Evaluation, Division of Adult Literacy and Rural Development Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris

Mr. Haile Mariam Khassay, National Co-ordinator of the World Health Organization,
Addis Ababa

Mr. N. Worker, Livestock Specialist, International Bank for Reconstruction and
Development, Nairobi

Rapporteur: Mr. D. I. Carter, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief
Co-ordinator, Geneva
